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Humble Address
OF THE
VVidow VWhitrowe
TO
King William:

With a
FAITHFUL WARNING

To the
Inhabitants of England,

TO
Haste and Prepare by True Repentance, and
Deep Humiliation, to meet the
LORD,

Before His Indignation burns like Fire, and
breaks forth into a mighty Flame, so that
none can quench it.

Printed in the Year, 1689.

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THE HUMBLE ADDRESS

OF THE

Widow Vitrowe

TO

King William, &c.

GOD SAVE THE KING FOR EVER.

For that is the desire of my Soul to GOD for thee, and for all Mankind, which is the chief end of my Writing to the King at this time: And my humble Petition and Request to the King is, that his delight may be in the Law of the LORD, and in HIS Law to have thy Meditation day and night.

For this was the Word which GOD put into my Heart for thee, when I was going on the Way near Putney, and hearing the King was to come that way, I stood still to see him; and whilst I stood still, these were the Words that did rise in my Heart to thee, Oh King.

Blessed is the Man that doth not walk in the Counsel of the Wicked, nor stand in the Way of Sinners, nor sit in the Seat of the Scornful; but his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and in His Law doth he meditate Day and Night; For this is he that shall be as a Tree planted by the Rivers of Water, that will bring forth his Fruit in due season, whose Leaf shall not fade; so that whatsoever he shall do, it shall prosper: but the Wicked are not so, but are like the Chaff which the Wind driveth away.

These were the weighty Words; but I saw not thy Face at that time: But another time, as I was going by

Water, I met thee going to land at *Whitehall*, and our Boat standing still, I felt the power of GOD's Love so to thee, that it transported my Spirit into a Heavenly Joy; I was drawn forth into Prayer, and these were some of the Words; *LORD be Thou his Counsellor: LORD be Thou his Director.* And so I departed in this holy Extravagance, making my request to GOD for thee: But after this, I saw thee upon *East-Sheen-Common*, where thou wast taking thy pleasure in Hunting: I was much grieved to see the King spending his precious time in such a vain Exercise, in such a day as this, when the Nation lies bleeding, the People wallowing in their Blood of Uncleanness, and all manner of Abominations, whose Sins are of a Scarlet Dye, and cries aloud in the Ears of the LORD GOD for Vengeance: Oh King! is this a day for Pleasure, when the Righteous GOD is oppressed under the Sins of the People as a Cart is pressed with Sheaves? I beseech thee consider the end of the LORD, in bringing thee into this Nation, was it to do thy own Will, or the Will of Him that sent thee? For thou hast lived to see some of the great Acts of the LORD in this thy day, as others did in the days of old, when one chased a thousand, and five put ten thousand to flight; yea, how did the Mighty fly before thee, when none persued them? And if GOD prolong thy days, thou wilt see greater things then these; for the LORD will work Wonders in this the day of His mighty Power, as He did in *Egypt*, and at the Red-Sea; and for this end, to get Himself a Name above every Name, to exalt His glorious Name in the Earth, that all may know that He is the LORD, and that man is but man; As thou, O King, art a witness, that it was not thy Sword, nor thy Might that brought thee hither, but the LORD's own Arm which He made bare in the sight of all: And now I beseech thee consider how highly thou art engaged to the

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LORD for all his Goodness; and what wilt thou return to the KING of Eternal Glory, but to love Him with all thy Heart and Soul, Strength and Might, and thy Neighbour as thy self; and to do Justice, and love Mercy, and to walk humbly with the LORD; for this is the whole Duty of Man, to love GOD and keep his Commandments, to visit the Widow and Fatherless in their Afflictions; and to keep thy self unspotted from the World; to love our Enemies, to do good for evil, to overcome evil with good; as our blessed LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ commanded, *Whatever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye that unto them*: Oh these are blessed Rules for men to walk by, for the King and his Nobles to put into practice: These are the Rules that the holy men of GOD gave forth as they were moved by the Spirit of GOD, as the holy Apostle saith, *That the man of GOD be perfect, and intire, wanting nothing, but furnished for every good Work*. And saith our LORD and blessed Saviour, *Be ye merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful*. And King David saith, *LORD with the merciful Thou wilt shew Thy Self merciful, and with the pure Thou wilt shew thy self pure*. This made David call upon GOD so earnestly, to make him pure, even as GOD is pure; and this made him merciful to forgive his Enemies so often; for he knew the benefit would return to him again, both from GOD and Man; and as there was great Goodness in it, so there was great Policy, for it won the Affection of the People, so as that there Hearts were bowed to him, as the Heart of one man. And now O King, seeing thou art compassed about with so great a Cloud of Witnesses, In courage thy self in GOD, as David did, and let the Power of the LORD GOD be strong in the King, to throw down Sin, and to root out Wickedness out of this Nation: For be it known unto thee, O King, this Nation at this time is fit

ter for Judgment then for Deliverance; for how doth all manner of Wickedness reign, both in Professors and Prophane, for the one is given to their fleshly Pleasures, as Drunkenness, Feasting, Whoredom, and all manner of beastly lascivious Talking, Swearing, and Lying, Cheating, and all manner of Deceit: It would amaze one to see how Youth and little Children are debauched, their Mouthes filled with Cursing and Swearing, and all manner of wicked Words, as *Dam*, and *Rot them*, and such Hellish Words; and the Professors of Religion out-strip the Prophane: for O the Deceit, the Double-dealing, Cheating & Coufening: and if their evil ends are not answered, then the Malice they are filled with, even seeking to destroy one another: And the ground wherein all this mischief grows, is Covetousness, which is Idolatry, and the root of all Evil, every one seeking themselves, and not the things of Christ, who said, *Ie cannot be my Disciples, except ye deny your selves, and take up my daily Cross, and follow me*: But instead of this, they are become Enemies to the Cross of Christ, *whose God is their Belly*, as saith the Apostle, *whose Glory is their Shame, who mind Earthly things*. And is it not a shame that men that call themselves *Christians*, should mind their Honours and Preferments into great Places? Did Christ and his Followers leave such a Pattern? Let them bring their Lives to the Life of Christ, and see how like they are to His: this is the cause why they do not profit the people, because their minds are in the Earth: and behold, oh King, what preaching and praying here is in this Land, but how little practising? What Fruits are brought forth to G O D by all this praying and preaching? did ever pride abound as it doth now? the holy Scriptures of Truth speaks of the *Jews*, *Isa. 3. 16* to the end: when they were departed from the Law of G O D they went a Whoring after the Abominations of the

the *Heathen*, and one of their Whorish Inventions was, they made them *Round Tyers like the Moon*, for which the Prophet proclaims the heavy Judgments of **G O D** against them.

But what may we call the Dresses of the profest Christians of our Time? the Tower of *Babel*, or the Whore of *Babylon's* triple Crown? Oh ye *Rebellious Daughters*, who have Ears but hear not, Hearts but do not understand, that the long Suffering of the **L O R D** should lead you to Repentance; Oh ye Proud stiff-necked and *Rebellious People*, do you thus requite the **L O R D** for all his kind and gentle dealing, which should humble you in the dust before Him; ye *Rebellious Ones*, with what face or pretence of Piety can you appear before the pure and holy **G O D** in your Congregations to worship? with your proud Hearts, your staitly Carriages, your lofty looks, your towered Thoughts, thinking you are Gods with your high towered Heads, which makes you look exalted to the Skies, with all the rest of your rich & gorgious Attires, fitter for the *Heathen* Stage-Players than for *Christians*: I say, can you approach before this great and Almighty **G O D**, and not be abased and confounded before Him? Know you not that *His* all-seeing Eye beholds your Idolatry? and if his **M A J E S T Y** looks upon you in Anger, ye are consumed to nothing, and must return to the Dust from whence ye came, for the Worms to feed on your delicate Carcasses, for which your precious time hath been spent in taking care for to feed it Voluptuously, and to adorn it excessively, and then to love and admire it so, as to worship and adore it; Now which are the greatest Idolaters, they that worship the Sun, Moon and Stars, the glorious Creatures, which represent the Glory of **G O D**, or you that worship your sinful Flesh? Ye great Idolaters, do you think that **G O D** created you for
this

this purpose, to Love your selves, Admire your selves, to Kiss your own Hands, saying to your proud Flesh, I will Honour and Worship thee, thou art my God, (for this know, *his Servants ye are, whom you obey*) and then go and stand in your Idols Temple, to Mock GOD, and bid Defiance to His Spirit of Grace, saying, we are delivered to do all these Abominations!

O I speak this to all sorts of Professors, from the highest in profession to the lowest of them that call themselves *Christians*, for the one is as deeply guilty of loving themselves, their own Ways and evil Works of earthly Mindedness and Covetousness, which is Idolatry; as the Prophain is of their Prophainness: *Oh Everlasting GOD, what Lamentation shall be taken up for both these, which are gone away from thy Ways like lost Sheep!* But oh ye *Idolaters*, who call your selves *Christians*, go you to the Wars of *Jerusalem*, and read there what the LORD did for the wickedness of that People who were call'd *Jews*: & do you think to escape the just Judgments of GOD for your Sins, because you are call'd *Christians*, though out of His Life, No, No, that Covering will be too short in the Day of Account; and though some of you may say, *We have Eaten and Drunk in Thy Presence, and in thy Name done many wonderful Works*, yet not persevering to the end of all Iniquity, this will be your Portion, *Depart from me ye Workers of Iniquity, I know you not.*

And now having in some measure cleared my Conscience, by doing as I am commanded, to speak the Truth to my Neighbours, I Expect the same measure from those that are guilty in this matter to cast a Stone at me, as they did at the faithful Servants of the LORD of old: Poor suffering *Jeremiah*, was so sorely tryed, that he said, *Woe me, my Mother, that thou hast born me, a Man of Contention and Strife to the whole Earth.* And that holy Prophet *Isaiah*, who said to the Scoffers of his time,

Iſa. 57. 3. O ye Sons of the Sorcerers, the Seed of the Adulterers, &c. On whom have ye jeſted? upon whom have ye gaped, and thruſt out your Tongues? Are not ye Rebellious Children and falſe Seed inflamed with Idols? And my bleſſed Saviour, the Everlaſting GOD, manifeſt in Fleſh, - when He went to Dye upon the Croſs for their Sins, they beat Him and mocked Him, ſaying, Propheſie who ſmote Thee; ſo I muſt take my Lot among theſe bleſſed Ones, though unworthy; but I will get me into the ſecret of His Pavilion, under the Shadow of the Almighty, where I ſhall be hid from the ſtrife of Tongues.

And now, O KING, I hope thy Goodneſs will paſs by my Treaſpals in this long Diſcourſe, wherein I have been ingaged to bear my Teſtimony againſt the Sins of the people of this Nation, which cries aloud in the Ears of the LORD for Vengeance; and ſeeing I intend nothing but what is good for the King and his People, I deſire to have Liberty to eaſe my ſelf of the burden which hath lain upon me many years before thou cameſt into this Nation. For be it known unto the King, I have feared the LORD, and loved the holy Scripture from my Youth up until this day; and in my ſearching after the LORD I paſt through many things, which would be too tedious to mention here.

About a quarter of a Year before the *Plague* began in *London*, the LORD commanded me to go to *Briſtol*, and call them to Repentance, before the terrible Day of the LORD; and ſo I went a Foot, and when I came thither, at the Command of GOD I put on Sack-cloth on my Body, and Aſhes on my Head; and when I had delivered my Meſſage, the next day I returned towards *London*, where I came to my Husband and Family in ten Days time, on the tenth Day of my parting from them, leaving a young Child of a Year old that ſuck'd at my Breaſt,

and found all things well; my self also, so well as if I had not gon one Mile, although a weak Woman of Body, and not able to go two Miles without Pain, yet in the strength of the L O R D I went almost two Hundred Miles a Foot, Glory be to G O D forever.

And after a great Exercise of Fasting & Prayer which lay upon me, I was *commanded* to go out of my own House in Sack-cloth and Ashes, and proclaim the terrible Day of the L O R D, that should burn as an Oven; crying *Wo, wo, wo unto the Inhabitants of this City; Desolation upon Desolation, and Wo upon Wo*; then presently the *Plague* began in the City; and for too Weeks after the *Plague* began, I thought I should never have had rest more, for day and night I was like a Woman in strong Travel, all over in racking Pain, I trembled that my Knees struck one against another, and as the weight of a Mill Stone upon my Spirit, I cried bitterly to the L O R D; and said, *Oh Righteous L O R D, if Thou remove not this burden, then I cannot live*; then the L O R D answered, and said, *It is the burden of the Iniquities of the Nation I have laid upon thee, and thou must bear my Indignation, for thou art their Sign of the Repentance and Humiliation I require of them*: then I knew what the Prophet *Habakkuk* meant when his Lips quivered, his Belly trembled, and rottenness had entered his Bones; then I had a little ease for the present, but the great Exercise remained still, going in Sack-cloth and Ashes, and calling the People to Repentance; but when I had performed my Service, and done all that the L O R D required of me; Oh the sweet melting consoling Love my Heart and Soul was filled with to G O D for His goodness, in giving me strength to do His blessed Will, and was so humbled, I could have licked the Dust; then I threw my Body upon the ground, and my Mouth in the Dust, that G O D might be Exalted; then

then I had Beauty given me for Ashes, yea, the Beauty of His Holiness; I had the Garment of Praise for the Spirit of heaviness, for my Mouth was filled with Praises, and my Heart with Heavenly Halalujah's; I went about doing Good, visiting the Sick, and relieving the Poor; I had the Word of the L O R D to many Families, to tell them that their Visitation drew near, calling them to Repentance, Praises be to Him that lives forever; for the L O R D had not only shed his Love in my Heart, but filled my Heart and Rains so full, that it run as a River to all mankind, for their Redemption out of their fallen Estate; but this encreased my outward Afflictions, and the inward Travel of my Soul, so that I never heard of any that went through the like in this latter Age; I was much exercised with fasting, at the Command of the L O R D I Fasted three days, and three nights, without any Sustenance; and eat Bread and drank Water six days together, for a Witness against their Feasting and Drinking high Spirits, to keep the Plague from their Hearts, but alas, they were Physicians of no value; but it pleased the L O R D to preserve me and mine, at that Time, and for many years after, until it pleased Him to prepare my dear Children for Himself, and then He took them out of all the Snares and Temptations of this sinful Life, to their everlasting Joy and His eternal Praise, World without end, Amen. Then I enquired of the L O R D why He took them away in their youth; and He said, *Because* of their Fathers evil Life, and in order for my deliverance to the Work He had called me to; then the L O R D Commanded me to depart from the Multitude, and from all the concerns of this World, to seek Him apart; to give up Name and Fame, and whatsoever was dear to me in this Life, Body, Soul and Spirit, to serve the L O R D, as he required

quired me, (that was in Fasting and Prayer) which was also to be a sign to the Multitude, of the Worship which the *L O R D* required of them; but the Afflictions I went through at that time, is beyond my Tongue of Flesh to declare; then after all this the *L O R D* commanded me to go in Sackcloth and Ashes three days, and to wear Sackcloth three years, which I did, till after the death of King *Charles* the second.

And now, O KING, I am required to visit thee, and to lay before thee what the *L O R D* requires of thee, which is, *To do Justly, and to shew Mercy, and to walk humbly with thy GOD, and not to fear Man, whose Breath is in his Nostrils, nor to put thy trust in the Arm of Flesh, but in the living GOD; for it is written, Wo unto them that go down into Egypt for help; It is also written, Blessed be the Man that trusteth in the L O R D, and whose hope the L O R D is, for he shall be as a Tree that is planted by the Waters, which spreadeth out her roots by the Rivers, and shall not feel when the heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green, and shall not care for the year of drowth, neither shall cease from yielding Fruit, yea, Blessed shall he be in his going out, and in his coming in; for the LORD shall bless him with an everlasting Blessing, which shall be better than the Blessing of his Ancestors: Therefore O King, be Valiant for the Truth upon Earth, and give not thy Strength unto others, nor thy Power and Wisdom to Men, but serve the LORD with all thy Strength, and with all thy Might, for this the LORD requirs of thee, and give it not to Men to serve their evil ends.*

And in order to the carrying on of this great Work which I have been treating of, my humble Request to the King is, that he would be pleased to take Christ for his Example in this thing, to with-draw often from the Multitude, and to retire into his own Soul, there to at-

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tend upon the *Lord* very diligently in Fasting and Prayer, asking Counsel of the *LORD* how to order his Affairs as may be most for the Glory of *GOD*, and then *The GOD of Peace make the King perfect in all good Works, to do His most acceptable Will, working in him that which is pleasant in His sight, to whom be Everlasting Praise for evermore, Amen.*

From one that is of no Sect or gathered People whatsoever, yet I love the good in all, but the evil I abhor; so I walk alone as a Woman forsaken; I have fellowship with them that Lived in Caves, and in Dens, and desolate places of the Earth, of whom the World was not worthy.

J. W.

Postscript.

O Ye Church and People of *England*! what did you send for King *William* out of his own Country, and turn out King *James*? You said it was to set up the *Christian Religion*, and to Establish it: Why is it not done? What have you been a doing all this while, making provision to set up your selves? For the *Christian Religion* is not set up: you know what that is, To forsake the Devil and all his Works, the Poms and Vanities of this wicked World, and all the sinful Lusts of the Flesh, and to keep *GOD's Will and Commandments*, and to walk in the same all the days of your Lives. So you see the *Christian Religion* shews you what the Devil's Works are, that they are the Poms and the Vanities of this wicked World, and

and the sinful Lusts of the Flesh. And Christ's command is, Learn of me, for I am Meek and Lowly, and you shall find Rest to your Souls: And Christ's command is, Love your Enemies, do good to them that hate you: And Christ's command is, Let your Light so shine, that men may see your good Works, and glorifie your heavenly Father: These are the Commands of Christ, with all the rest that I have been treating of. And these are the Vows you have vowed in the Name of GOD, in your Baptism, To forsake the Devil and all his Works, the vain Pumps and Glory of the World, with all the Covetous Desires of the same, the Carnal Desires of the Flesh, saying, I will not follow, nor be led by them: I forsake them all: This is your Promise. Therefore, oh ye Church and People of England, perform your Vows which you have vowed to the GOD of Heaven, and put into practice what you have promised the LORD; but if you will not, then will it appear to all the World, that you did not all this to set up the Christian Religion, but to set up your selves, which if you do, GOD will pull you down; for saith the LORD, Them that Honour me I will Honour: but they that despise Me shall be despised, 1 Sam. 2.

And oh ye Church and People of England, I am to acquaint you, that the last Lord Mayors Day I bore a heavy burden for your Feasting: The LORD calls for Fasting, and you go to Feasting; so that ye are guilty of the same Iniquity that your fore Fathers were, for saith Isaiah the Prophet in that day, Did the LORD GOD of Hosts fall into Weeping and Mourning, and Balaies, and girding with sack-cloth; but behold Joy and Gladness, slaying Oxen and killing Sheep, eating Flesh and drinking Wine, Bating and Drunkening, for to morrow we shall dye: That was all that presumptuous Generation valued, either the command of the LORD

or His just Judgments, to make a mock at that weighty Message; and yea do the same in your Actions, breaking Christ's commands, who said, *When thou makest a Dinner or Supper, call not thy Friends, nor thy rich Neighbours, lest they bid thee again: But when thou makest a Feast, call the Poor and the Distressed, for they cannot Recompence thee again, but thou shalt be Recompenced at the Resurrection of the Just.* So remember your Vows which ye have vowed, oh ye Church and People! to keep GOD's holy Will and Commandments, and to walk in the same all the dayes of your Lives. And now, oh ye Churches and Inhabitants of England of all sorts and Sects, be it known unto you, that thus far I am clear of your Blood by performing my Service to GOD, and my Duty to my Neighbours, whom I desire the welfare of as my own Soul; yea, I can call Heaven and Earth to witness, that this is my end, even your Salvation, which will be more to you then all earthly Crowns.

And that this Message to you may prove so effectual by the Power of GOD, that you together with me in the Humility of our Souls, may cast our selves with all Self-interest at the Feet of Christ Jesus, as a second *Mary Magdalen*, washing His Feet with our Tears, and wiping them with the Hairs of our Heads, that our cries may pierce through the Heavens to the Throne of his Grace, to move His holy and glorious MAJESTY to be merciful to us, and this poor Nation, that it may not be made an utter Desolation for the Sins of them that live therein.

Your Friend, ready to serve you to the utmost of my Power according to the Will of GOD.

J. Whitrowe.

East-Heene, near Mortlock, }
the 2d of December, }
1689.